(d) The CAG Report (No. 12A of 2002) has already been placed before the House.

The observations made in para 3.7.1. regarding non-filing of Income-tax returns by private hospitals and nursing homes do not reflect the true state of affairs.

The list containing commercial names of the Hospitals/Nursing Homes has been primarily prepared from Municipal Records and Telephone Directories, whereas the Income-tax Records show names of assessable entities (Individuals/Firms/Trusts/Associations of Persons/Companies) having ownership of such Hospitals/Nursing Homes. Detailed verification/field enquiry in Delhi has shown that all the cases reported in the list are filing their tax returns except one case in which the reported Hospital/Nursing Home does not exist at the address given in the list. Similarly, 187 cases out of total 198 Private Hospitals/Nursing Homes in Jharkhand are assessed to tax. Similar results have been reported after verification from different parts of the country namely Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Assam, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

Inter-State Coordination Committee on Narcotics

3178. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seizures made by the enforcement agencies have clearly indicated that India has now become a producing country for heroin;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the efforts made by Government to curb opium drug trafficking; and

(c) the main decision taken at the Inter-State Coordination Committee meeting held at Narcotics Control Bureau on 23rd February, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The seizure reports

of various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies indicate that heroin, besides being smuggled in from across the border, is also being manufactured illicitly in some parts of the country, especially in and around the opium producing States.

(b) As reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, during the year 2001 eight illicit drug manufacturing facilities were detected in various parts of the country and dismantled by the said Agencies. The Government has taken a number of steps to curb opium drug trafficking, *viz.*, (i) enactment of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to combat drug trafficking, (ii) empowerment of a large number of Central and State Agencies under the NDPS Act to ensure effective implementation of the Act, (iii) intensive preventive and interdiction efforts, (iv) training to upgrade the skills of law enforcement officers, (v) a liberal reward scheme for informers, (vi) setting up of the Narcotics Control Bureau to ensure a coordinated approach towards drug law enforcement nationally, (vii) setting up special courts to try cases under the NDPS Act and (viii) international cooperation and coordination including a number of regional and bilateral agreements.

(c) The main decisions taken at the Inter-State Coordination Committee meeting, held on 22 February, 2002 by the Narcotics Control Bureau, are as under:

(1) Agencies operating in the States bordering Pakistan shall increase vigil along the Indo-Pak border.

(2) Agencies operating in the North Eastern States shall monitor the drug situation in the area, especially the trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals along Indo-Myanmar, Indo-Bangladesh border.

(3) All agencies in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan shall keep a vigil on illicit opium product.

(4) Financial investigations in all cases under the NDPS Act shall be accorded priority.

(5) Illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis shall be identified and destroyed.

(6) Adequate steps shall be taken for speedy disposal of pending court cases booked under the NDPS Act.

(7) Steps shall be taken for speedy establishment of Special Courts for trial of cases booked under NDPS Act.

(8) All agencies shall furnish the requisite reports regarding sampling, storage and disposal of drugs.

(9) All Agencies shall furnish seizure reports and monthly performance reports regularly and on time.

Investment in Iranian Oil Companies

3179. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked Iranian Government to give their Public Sector Undertaking Oil Companies on equity sharing basis in the Oil and gas sector; and

(b) if so, the response of Iran Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Under the policy prevailing in Iran, the Oil and gas sector projects are offered to foreign companies, predominantly on "Buy Back" arrangements, which does not permit equity ownership in such projects.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Subsidies on gas and kerosene

3180. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidies on domestic cooking gas and kerosene had doubled from Rs. 7,480 crore to Rs. 14,200 crore in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the quantum of the subsidies attributable to cooking gas